

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for scanning articles each labeled with a label comprising a light polarizing material, ~~the light polarizing material forming a machine readable indicia including a code associated with the article, the light polarizing material being applied over a reflective material,~~ comprising the steps of:

exposing the light polarizing material to a light source, the light polarizing material being positioned over a reflective layer to form a machine readable indicia including a code associated with the article;

dividing light reflected from the indicia into a plurality of beams;

filtering ~~each of a~~ at least a plurality of the beams through ~~a polarized~~ polarizing filters, each of the filters being offset from each of the other filters by a predetermined angle;

generating an electronic image from each of the filtered beams with a detector;

comparing the electronic images to produce a composite image corresponding to the machine readable indicia; and

electronically analyzing the composite image to decode the indicia.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein a database including a plurality of codes ~~was~~ is used to apply different machine readable indicia to different ones of the plurality of articles, the machine readable indicia representing one of the plurality of codes

associated with particular articles.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the machine readable indicia are formed on a plurality of labels from a light polarizing material applied over the reflective material, the reflective material reflecting light through the light polarizing material.

Claims 4-6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising generating the electronic image from each of the filtered beams with a charge coupled array.

Claim 8. (Canceled).

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the machine readable indicia comprises a bar code.

Claim 10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the light polarizing material and the reflective material are transparent to visible light.

Claims 11-25 (Canceled).

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the machine readable

indicia comprise postal address information and the articles comprise mail pieces.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the label is at least partially transparent, and the reflective material comprises a surface of a labeled article.

Claims 28-33. (Canceled).

Claim 34. (New) A method for scanning destination information from a series of mail pieces, each mail piece being labeled with a bar code formed from a light polarizing material, the method comprising:

exposing the mail piece to a light source, such that light is reflected through the bar code from a reflective layer under the bar code;

dividing the reflected light into a plurality of beams;

filtering at least a plurality of the beams through polarizing filters, each of the filters being offset from each of the other filters by a predetermined angle;

generating an electronic image from each of the filtered beams with a detector;

comparing the electronic images to produce an image of the bar code; and

electronically analyzing the composite image to decode the bar code.

Claim 35. (New) A method for scanning articles each labeled with a label including a light polarizing material, comprising the steps of:

conveying the articles past a light source to expose the light polarizing material to light,

the light polarizing material being positioned over a reflective layer to form a machine readable indicia including a code associated with the article;

dividing light reflected from the indicia into a plurality of beams;

filtering at least a plurality of the beams through polarizing filters, each of the filters being offset from each of the other filters by a predetermined angle;

generating an electronic image from each of the filtered beams with a detector;

subtracting a first digitalized image from a second digitalized image to obtain a difference representing the machine readable indicia; and

electronically analyzing the composite image to decode the indicia.

Claim 36. (New) The method of claim 35 further comprising generating the electronic image from each of the filtered beams with a charge coupled array.

Claim 37. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the machine readable indicia comprises a bar code.

Claim 38. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the light polarizing material and the reflective material are transparent to visible light.

Claim 39. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the machine readable indicia comprise postal address information and the articles comprise mail pieces.

Claim 40. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the label is at least partially transparent, and the reflective material comprises a surface of a labeled article.